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Big Buck

Recognition Program

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The Big Buck Recognition Program was begun to recognize the thousands of Illinois hunters who take trophy white-tailed deer. However, recognition of trophy deer is but a small part of what this program will accomplish. The Big Buck program also will promote an interest and appreciation of the sport of deer hunting, create a stronger hunting ethic, and make the public more aware of the wise use of this renewable resource.

The program also can help develop stronger hunter/landowner relationships, make hunters aware of good management practices, and give wildlife biologists a greater understanding of the health, size and distribution of the Illinois deer herd.

The Big Buck Recognition Program also will provide a means of letting the world know what Illinoisans have known for a long time--that Illinois is home to some of the largest and healthiest deer on earth.

There are two categories in which archery and firearm hunters can qualify their antlers--typical and non-typical. Typical antlers are normal, symmetrical in shape, while non-typical antlers possess a large number of points which are abnormal in shape or position.

Scoring will be based on standards set up by the Boone and Crockett Club, and qualifying scores will be published in an Illinois Big Buck Register. To qualify, deer taken by firearm must score a minimum of 140 for a typical rack and 160 for a non-typical set of antlers. The minimum for deer taken by bow and arrow is 115 for typical and 130 for non-typical antlers.

All preliminary scoring must take place after a minimum of 60 days to allow antlers a drying period, and antlers must be attached to the skull plate to qualify for scoring.

Persons returning the preliminary score sheet whose totals meet or exceed the minimum requirements will be notified of when and where they may take their antlers to be officially scored.

PRELIMINARY ANTLER MEASUREMENT INFORMATION

The modified Boone and Crockett Club criteria that must be followed when filling out this Application for Measurement Score Sheet are:

1. Measurements must be made with a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch flexible steel tape or seamstress measuring tape to the closest one-eighth of an inch. When it becomes necessary to change directions in measurements, mark a point on the antler with a lead pencil and swing the tape at this point. All fractional figures are entered in eighths without reduction (i.e., $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{2}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{4}{8}$, etc.)
2. To allow for normal shrinkage, official measurement cannot be taken until at least 60 days after the deer was harvested. During the 60-day drying period the antlers are to be air dried, not frozen. Antlers must be intact and attached to the skull plate of the deer (mounted antlers and heads may still qualify).
3. To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and its length must exceed the width of its base (see illustration 1). All points are measured from nearest edge of main beam over outer curvature to the tip of the point as illustrated. Beam tip is counted as a point, but not measured as an individual point because it is included in with the main beam measurement.
4. It is important to distinguish the left and right antler prior to beginning your preliminary measurement. Antlers are identified from the deer's standpoint, not left and right as you face it. Refer to the illustration if you have any doubts as to which is the left and right antler.

Persons using a calculator to total their scores, may wish to convert the fractions to decimals. However, remember to convert back to fractions on the Summary Score Sheet.

$\frac{1}{8}$	=	.125
$\frac{2}{8}$	=	.250
$\frac{3}{8}$	=	.375
$\frac{4}{8}$	=	.500
$\frac{5}{8}$	=	.625
$\frac{6}{8}$	=	.750
$\frac{7}{8}$	=	.875

ILLINOIS BIG BUCK RECOGNITION PROGRAM

APPLICATION FOR MEASUREMENT SCORE SHEET

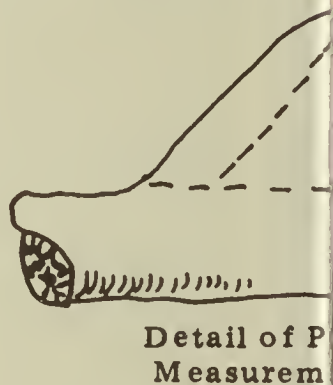
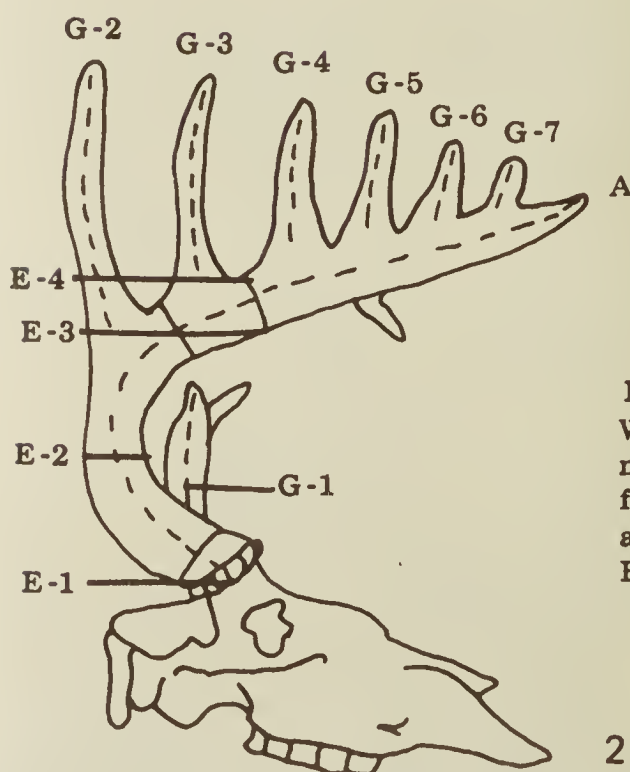
A. Main Beam Length. This measurement is taken from the lowest outside edge of the burr over the outer curve of each antler to the most distant point of what is, or appears to be, the main beam (see illustration 2).

1. Right: _____
2. Left: _____
3. Difference: _____

B. Inside Spread of Main Beams. This measurement is at right angles to the center line of the skull at the widest inside point between main beams (see illustration 3). Credit may equal but not exceed length of longest antler.

1. Inside Spread of main beams: _____
2. If Inside Spread exceeds longest main beam, enter main beam measurement here:

3. Difference: _____



E-1 and E-2

When brow tine is present, measure at smallest circumference between burr and brow tine and record twice (in E-1 and E-2)

C. Total Length of All Abnormal Points. To be considered an abnormal point, the point must be non-typical in location, (i.e., points originating from points or from sides or bottom of main beam.) In addition, extra points beyond the normal pattern of up to eight paired points, including beam tip, per antler, are counted as abnormal points. Abnormal points are to be measured, totaled and entered in the TOTAL blank below.

	Right Antler	Left Antler
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

1. TOTAL of abnormal point measurements:

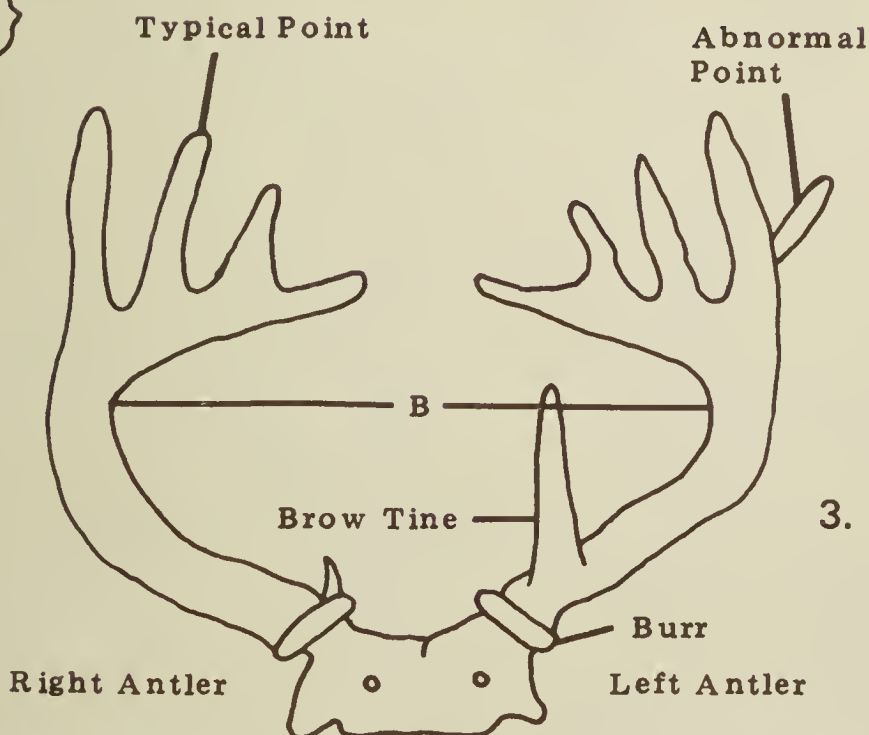


1.



ing
um-
G-2
and

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and



3.

D. Length of Normal Points. Normal points project from the top of the main beam. To determine the location to begin measurement, lay the tape parallel and along the outer curve of the main beam so that the top edge of the tape coincides with the top edge of the main beam on both sides of the point. The top edge of the tape now forms the point baseline (see illustration 1).

	Right Antler	Left Antler	Difference
G-1	_____	_____	_____
G-2	_____	_____	_____
G-3	_____	_____	_____
G-4	_____	_____	_____
G-5	_____	_____	_____
G-6	_____	_____	_____
G-7	_____	_____	_____

1. Total of Differences: _____
2. Total antler point measurements: _____

E. Beam Circumference. Measurements are taken as noted by illustration 2. When brow tine is absent, record circumferences for both E-1 and E-2 at the smallest circumference found between the burr and G-2. If G-4 is absent, take E-4 measurement halfway between G-3 and tip of main beam.

	Right Antler	Left Antler	Difference
E-1	_____	_____	_____
E-2	_____	_____	_____
E-3	_____	_____	_____
E-4	_____	_____	_____

1. Total Differences: _____
2. Total Beam Circumferences: _____

ILLINOIS BIG BUCK RECOGNITION PROGRAM

SUMMARY SCORE SHEET

(Typical Whitetail)

1. Right main beam length (A-1) _____
2. Left main beam length (A-2) _____
3. Inside spread measurement (B-1) _____
4. Total of length of normal points (D-2) _____
5. Total of beam circumferences (E-2) _____
- TOTAL 1 thru 5 (A) _____
6. Difference in main beam lengths (A-3) _____
7. Inside spread difference (B-3) _____
8. Total length of abnormal points (C-1) _____
9. Total difference between normal points (D-1) _____
10. Total difference between beam circumferences (E-1) _____
- TOTAL 6 thru 10 (B) _____
- FINAL SCORE (subtract B from A) _____

(Nontypical Whitetail)

To measure nontypical antlers, follow the above format with the exception that the total length of abnormal points is added to the "A" total and not recorded as number 8 (above).

Return to:

Big Buck Program
Department of Conservation
524 S. Second St.
Springfield, IL 62706

This state agency is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under Chapter 61, Section 2.24. Disclosure of this information is REQUIRED. Failure to provide any information will result in this form not being processed. This form has been approved by the Forms Management Center.

The Department of Conservation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin,

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

County of Residence _____

County Deer Taken In _____

Check One: _____ Firearm _____ Archery

Date Taken _____

Day

Month

Year

FAIR CHASE STATEMENT FOR ALL ILLINOIS BIG BUCK RECOGNITION AWARDS

To utilize any of the following methods shall be considered as UNFAIR CHASE and unsportsman-like, and any deer obtained by use of such methods is disqualified from any consideration for the Illinois Big Buck Recognition Program.

1. Spotting or herding deer from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for pursuit;

2. Herding or pursuing deer with motor-powered vehicles;

3. Use of electronic communications for attracting, locating or observing deer, or guiding the hunter to such deer.

4. Hunting deer confined by artificial barriers, including escape-proof fencing; or hunting deer transplanted solely for the purpose of commercial shooting.

I certify that the deer scored on this score sheet was not taken in UNFAIR CHASE as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club. I further certify that it was taken in full compliance with Illinois game laws.

DATE

SIGNATURE OF HUNTER

age or handicap in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer is responsible for compliance and may be reached at 217/782-7616.